

May 18, 2020
City of Kobe
Sysmex Corporation
SRL, Inc.

The City of Kobe, Sysmex, and SRL Configure and Begin Operating a PCR Testing System for COVID-19 within the Kobe Biomedical Innovation Cluster

The City of Kobe (Location: Kobe, Japan; Mayor: Kizo Hisamoto), Sysmex Corporation (HQ: Kobe, Japan; Chairman and CEO: Hisashi Ietsugu) and SRL, Inc. (HQ: Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, Japan; President and CEO: Shunichi Higashi), a subsidiary of Miraca Holdings Inc., hereby provide notice of the configuration of a PCR testing system within the Kobe Biomedical Innovation Cluster for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Operations are slated to commence on June 1, 2020.

With the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to spread in Japan, the City of Kobe has considered strengthening its PCR testing system within the city, to prevent further spread of the disease, to be a matter of urgency.

On May 18, 2020, the City of Kobe, Sysmex, and SRL signed a memorandum of understanding related to the strengthening of a PCR testing system for COVID-19 within the city of Kobe. In line with this agreement, the three entities will configure a new PCR testing system at the Sysmex BMA Laboratory, a clinical testing center in the Kobe Biomedical Innovation Cluster. Operations are scheduled to commence on June 1, 2020. In this initiative, Sysmex will take control of PCR tests. SRL will be in charge of supporting the creation of a testing system, collecting samples and reporting results.

The PCR tests will use the “2019-n-CoV Fluorescence Detection Real-Time RT-PCR Kit.” Sysmex was the first to obtain manufacturing and marketing approval in Japan for this *in vitro* diagnostic medical device to detect the RNA of SARS-CoV-2.

(<https://www.sysmex.co.jp/en/news/2020/pdf/200327.pdf>)

Initially, PCR testing will be performed on COVID-19 patients who have mild symptoms or are asymptomatic when they are discharged from care facilities. The system will gradually be expanded to the point where it can conduct 100 PCR tests per day.

Through this initiative, the three entities aim to reduce the physical and emotional burden of the COVID-19 threat on local residents.